



# WDM ENews

February 2014

## From The City Manager



The beginning of the new year comes with a fresh start and many great things for the City of West Des Moines. As we are prepare for the upcoming budget process, the [City of West Des Moines was thrilled to be recognized](#) among other cities across the nation for top performance, high quality of life, and a trusted place to own a home. The City of West Des Moines was named the #1 Best Medium-Sized Metro Area for Homeownership, #2 Best Small City to Retire, #26 most exciting small city, and ranked in the Top 50 top performing cities.

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These recognitions for a job well done shows that past leadership and policy decisions were beneficial for the community. However, recognition for our current success places an importance of future planning and consideration for organizational policies and procedures. Our organization, with a renewed commitment, has taken on the task of a Quality Improvement initiative to review current practices that staff feel can be improved for efficiency and effective service. With cross organizational teams, our staff is reviewing best practices from other communities similar to the City of West Des Moines and working to update policies and procedures.

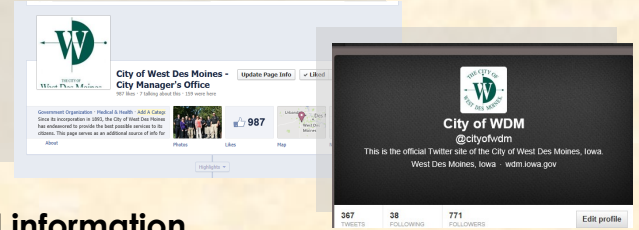
Additionally, there is a team formed to lead the charge on the implementation of the 2014-2018 Mayor and Council Goals. This team has identified the primary and secondary departments that will have a role in each goal and established action steps to bring the goals into fruition. The departments will work toward completing the actions steps over the course of the year with a follow-up review in December.

The commitment from both the Mayor and Council along with the City organization to continually keep pace with technology advancements, service delivery efficiencies, and future planning is the key to the City of West Des Moines fostering an environment that is positive for business, creating a high quality of life, and a community where investment are stable and flourish.

# Community Highlights

Have you liked us on Facebook or Twitter?

Look [here](#) for all the City pages to receive updates and information .



## West Des Moines Makes the Grade!

Rated # 1 Medium -Sized Metro Area for Homeownership by the NerdWallet Finance Blog. Three major factors were used to determine the selection: home availability, affordability, and growth within in the area. [Read more.](#)

Movoto.com ranked the City of West Des Moines as the #2 Best Small City to Retire and the #26 Most Exciting Small City in the Nation.

[Read more.](#)

The Des Moines-West Des Moines Metropolitan area is now ranked in the top 50 Top Performing Cities. The Milken Institute released their poll showing a marked improvement for the Metro area. [Read more.](#)

## Pet Owners– On Your Marks!

The [WestPet](#) is now accepting license renewals for pets within the City. Pet licenses are good for one year and required for all pets within the City limits.

## 2014 Dog Park Permits are Now Available!

[The Annual Dog Park Permits are now on Sale.](#) Click here for more information and forms for your pooch.



## Adaptive Traffic Signals coming to University Avenue

The West Des Moines Traffic Engineering division has received a grant to install adaptive traffic signals along University Avenue from 25th Street to 92nd Street. Adaptive Traffic Signals allow for the signals to change in real time based on traffic flow. These types of signals are already installed along Jordan Creek Parkway and Mills Civic Parkway.

## [WDM Magazine:](#)

### Spring Issue Early Release

In efforts to provide programming information earlier, the Spring Issue will be released in mid-March!



## [In the works.....](#)

- Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites have submitted site plan applications
- KCL Engineering has graduated from the WDM Business Incubator. Congrats!





## Department Spotlight: West Des Moines Police Department

The [City of West Des Moines Police Department](#) is working to serve you. In 2014, we have made changes to improve our service by aligning our in-house talents with the needs of the community. In 2014, you will see familiar faces leading Support Services and as well as the Operations Division; Captain Travis Ouerson will now oversee Support Services while Captain Mike Ficoola will oversee Operations. Lt. Jim Barrett will oversee Patrol Operations while Lt. Cam Coppess will work as an Executive Officer for the Chief of Police. The West Des Moines PD will now have a position over Training and Emergency Management as well as staff dedicated to the role of Public Information. New faces will work as School Resource Officers supporting the safety in the West Des Moines Community School District.

Coupled with a new operations model, these changes will increase effectiveness in the department and meet the growing needs of the community.



### 2013 Highlights....

- Four life saving awards were given to police department personnel for their efforts in saving lives this year.
- Compliance checks have been made to every alcohol and tobacco serving establishment in the City and all establishments in the City selling tobacco passed with flying colors!
- Several large cases involving theft and fraud have come to a close with suspects jailed for their actions
- A new Patrol Operations Model was implemented in 2013 to place emphasis on training, succession planning, directed initiatives, and increased health and welfare for the department.
- A new K-9 Unit will be in place by mid-2014. This program was partially funded through private donors.

### Get Connected....





# WDM Human Services Department

## Welcome

Whitney Rivas joined the Human Services team on January 20<sup>th</sup> as a Program Outreach Assistant. Whitney's background includes a degree in Human Services and Spanish from Iowa State University and experience working with youth with mental health issues, addiction, and special needs. We look forward to working with her!

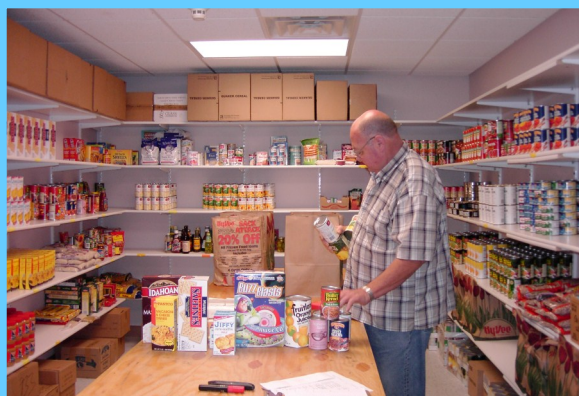


## Tax Assistance

AARP is once again providing free tax preparation services at WDM Human Services through April 15<sup>th</sup> for low-income households.

## Donation Needs

Both the [Food Pantry and Clothing Closet](#) at Human Services have an ongoing need for bags. This includes plastic grocery bags and larger sized shopping or garbage bags. If you have extras at home, please consider donating them to Human Services.





# West Des Moines Fire Department

## WDM Fire Department seeking Paid-On-Call Firefighters For 2014 Recruit Academy

West Des Moines Fire Department graduated twelve Paid-On-Call Firefighters in January from the 2013 Recruit Academy. The Recruit Academy begins mid-August each year and trains new recruits to the national standard of Firefighter II.

The City of West Des Moines is currently taking applications for our 2014 Recruit Academy for Paid-On-Call Firefighters. Interested individuals can go to [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) and complete the application found under Your Government/Human Resources/Employment/Job Postings. Applications must be completed in full prior to the application deadline to be considered for the 2014 recruit class. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and either reside in West Des Moines or be able to reach a West Des Moines Fire Station within four minutes. Considered applicants must possess a valid Driver's License, good driving record, high school diploma or equivalent, pass a background check, Certified Physical Ability Test (CPAT), post offer pre-employment physical and drug test. The 2014 Recruit Academy will begin mid-August, with the first five months being spent on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in a basic fire training academy where recruits are trained to the national standard of Firefighter II.



Several opportunities are available with the City of West Des Moines. Check out the [website](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) for more details and how to apply.

### **Public Works says “Thank You!”**

West Des Moines snow plow operators wish to express their appreciation to those residents who promptly remove their vehicles from the streets when a **Snow Parking Ban** is put in place due to winter weather.

Your quick action enables Public Works crews to clean your street curb to curb. **You** are an important part of the team in fighting winter weather events!



*When it's determined that a Snow Parking Ban will be put in place advance notice is given on the City website home page, on the Snow Hotline (273-0766), by e-mail to those who have signed up for E-Updates, on Facebook and Twitter, and notice is sent to the news media.*

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

The destructive Emerald Ash Borer has been in the news quite a bit lately. This insect, which is not native to our country, has no natural predators and as a result is anticipated to destroy all ash trees in their path.

The City of West Des Moines has been proactive by taking an inventory city-wide of all ash trees so that a comprehensive plan of action and costs may be determined.

You will be hearing more about the Emerald Ash Borer and what actions the City of West Des Moines will be implementing to address this issue.



## 2014 SOLID WASTE EVENTS FOR WDM CITIZENS

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

June 2 - 6

On your regular trash collection day

<u>March 31</u>	<u>Yard Waste Pick-Up begins on normal trash collection day</u>
<u>April 12</u>	<u>Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-Off &amp; Paper Shredding- 8AM-Noon -West Des Moines Public Works</u>
<u>April 19</u>	<u>Scrap Tire Drop-Off - 7:30 AM-4PM - West Des Moines Public Works</u>
<u>May 22</u>	<u>Nat'l Public Works Week Celebration - 4-7PM Valley Junction Farmer's Market</u>
<u>June 2 - 6</u>	<u>Spring Clean-Up - On your regular trash day</u>
<u>June 28</u>	<u>Hazardous Waste Drop-Off - Valley Stadium 8AM - Noon</u>
<u>Sept. 13</u>	<u>Scrap Appliance &amp; Metal Drop-Off - 8AM-Noon - West Des Moines Public Works</u>
<u>Nov. 29</u>	<u>Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends</u>
<u>Dec 29 - 1/9/15</u>	<u>Winter Yard Waste &amp; Christmas Tree Collection</u>

A number of Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events will be scheduled in our area by Metro Waste Authority, and will be posted on their website when available. Visit <http://www.whereshoulditgo.com/>

*Yard Waste and Spring Cleanup events are available to all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for City solid waste collection.*

For more details check the calendar on the City's website: [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)

### YourGOV

YourGOV has recently completed updates which should greatly enhance the experience of citizens reporting issues to the City. Users of the current YourGOV mobile apps for Android and iOS will soon be prompted to update their apps. The mobile apps have a new look and feel, and many additional features! Locating and submitting issues will be even simpler!

